

# Resource Brief

## Tucson Mountain District

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Saguaro National Park  
Cultural Resources



# Civilian Conservation Corps Ramadas

## Introduction

Between 1933 and 1941 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was active in the newly created Tucson Mountain Park (TMP), west of Tucson. During that time the CCC was tasked with making improvements to the park for the enhancement of the visitor's experience. In 1961 the northern portion of TMP was withdrawn from the county park and added to Saguaro National Monument. Today most of the CCC improvements may be found within Saguaro National Park's Tucson Mountain District (TMD).

The CCC created eight picnic areas, five of which are in TMD. At these picnic areas the CCC built tables with benches, fire places, rest rooms, shelter houses, and ramadas. The CCC constructed two types of ramadas, large and small.

For structures that are enclosed on all four sides and have a pitched roof see the Resource Brief on CCC Shelter Houses.

## Description

Large Ramadas contain two sets of table and bench combinations and are covered by a large flat roof supported at each corner by a large post, sometimes covered with saguaro cactus ribs. The posts are supported by short stone and concrete columns. Each picnic table has three benches and a single stool. Two of the benches form the corner of the Ramada. These large ramadas are between 18'-20' long by 12.5' and 14' wide. Large Ramadas can be found at all TMD picnic areas except Ez-Kim-In-Zin; none remain at picnic areas in Tucson Mountain Park. There had been one at Gates Pass but it no longer exists.

Small ramadas consist of a single table with two benches with high backrests which form the walls of the Ramada, a stool is located at each end of the table. Each of the backrests contains two posts that support the small flat roof. The small variety of ramadas is approximately 10 feet by 6.5 feet in size. Small ramadas are found at Ez-Kim-In-Zin, Signal Hill, and Juan Santa Cruz picnic areas.



An example of the large style of ramada. This one is at Signal Hill picnic area.



An example of the small style of ramada. This one is at Ez-Kim-In-Zin picnic area.

In 1961 when the Tucson Mountain District was added to Saguaro National Monument the Park Service began a program of rehabilitation under which the Park Service added concrete floors, and replaced the roofs and roof supports on the ramadas. At Sus the roof and roof supports of the large ramada were removed and a larger modern roof structure was built over the tables.

The style and construction of the ramadas are good examples of the NPS Rustic architectural style that was common at the time (see Brief on NPS Rustic).

## Cultural Resource Brief



An example of repeat photography. The two photographs are of the same ramada at Cam-Boh picnic area. The photograph at left was taken in 1962 prior to the Park Service rehabilitation project. The photograph at right was taken in 2012

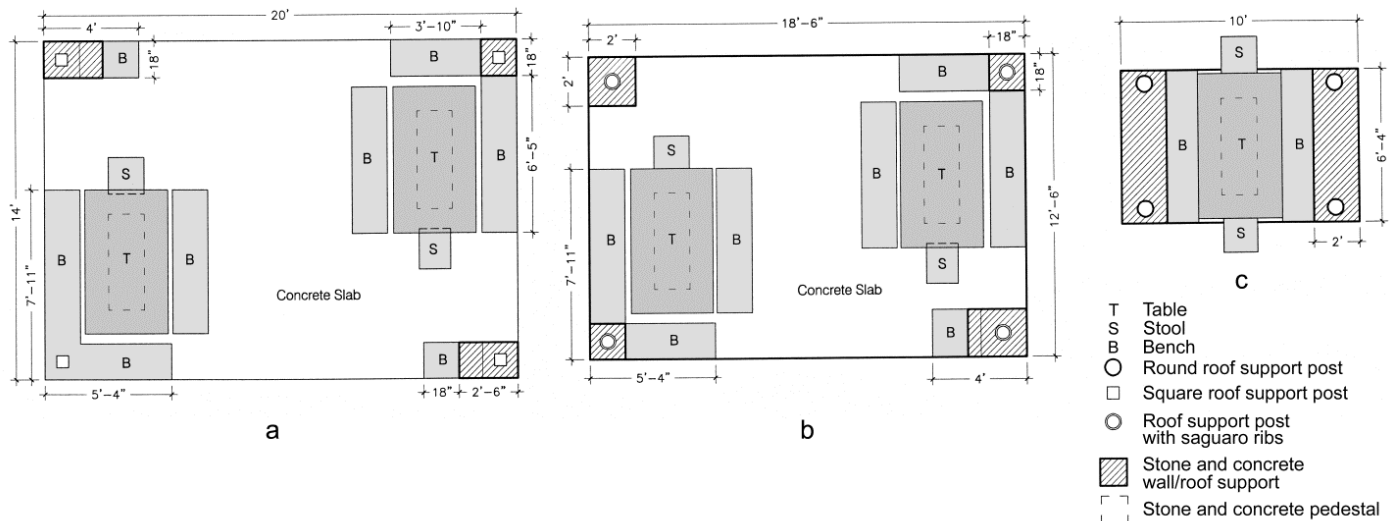


Illustration showing the two types of CCC ramadas that were built at TMD. At center and left are two examples of the large style of ramada. At far right is an example of the small style of ramada.

### Visiting CCC Features

Remember, the CCC features are an important part of our local history and as such are significant cultural resources. Please be respectful and act accordingly.

For more information contact:

Ronald Beckwith  
Archeologist  
Saguaro National Park  
3693 S. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85730

ph: (520) 733-5160  
email: ronald\_beckwith@nps.gov